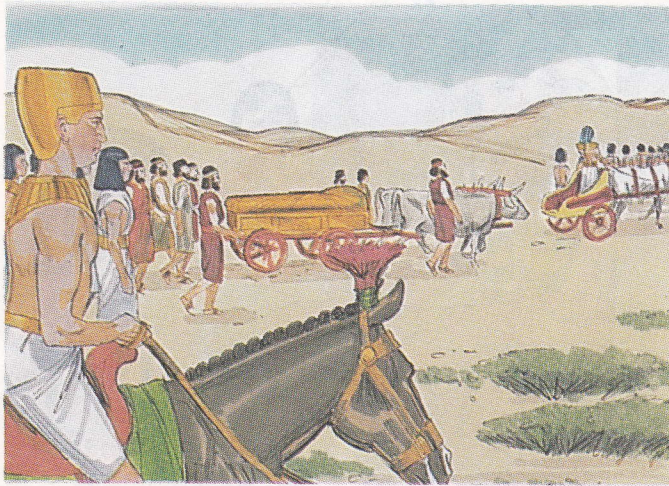
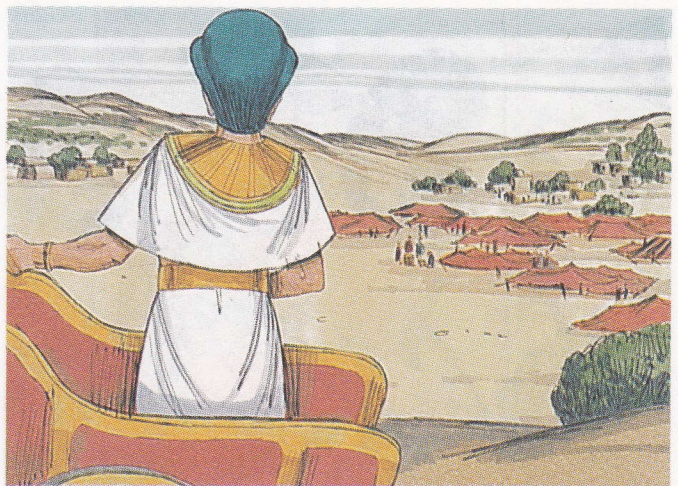


The Israelites Become Slaves



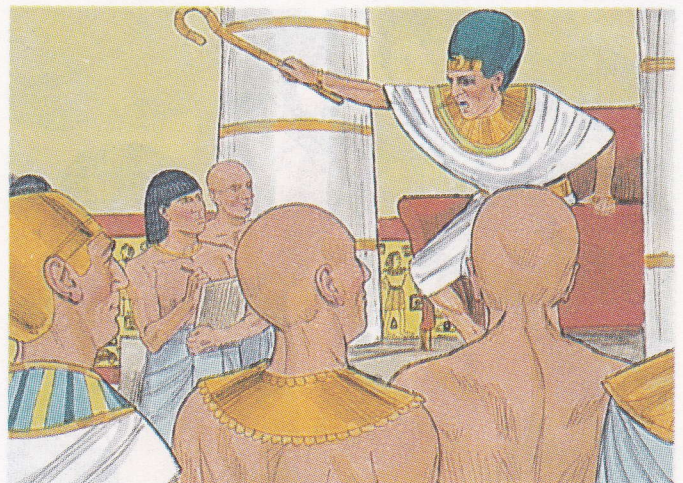
1 A long time had passed since the family of Jacob moved to Egypt. Joseph and his brothers and all the people living then were now dead. But their descendants had become very numerous.



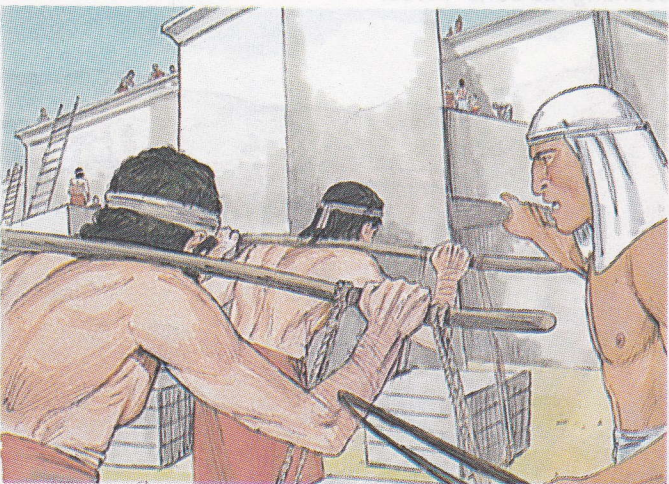
2 Then a new king, or Pharaoh, came to power in Egypt. He did not remember Joseph or the promises that had been made to Joseph's family to treat them well. This Pharaoh feared the Israelites.



3 Pharaoh thought, "Now that there are so many Israelites, they might be dangerous to Egypt! If any enemy attacks, the Israelites might help them and then escape from Egypt."



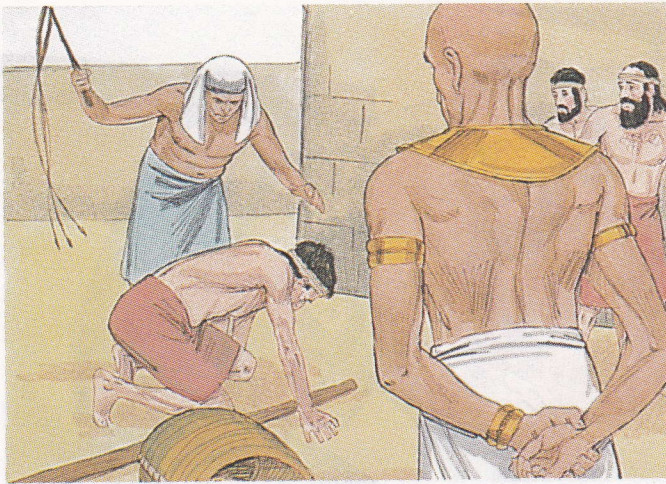
4 So Pharaoh made a plan to keep the Israelites from growing in numbers. He decided he would make slaves of the Israelites and crush their spirits with hard labor.



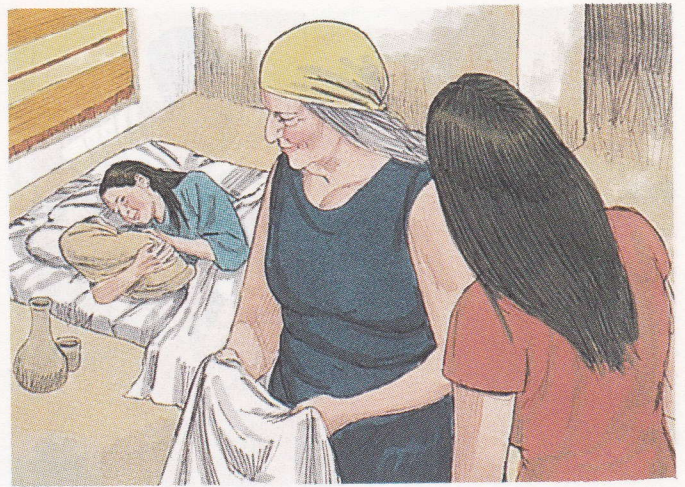
5 The Egyptians made the Israelites work as slaves in the fields and build cities of brick and mortar. They built the cities of Pithom and Rameses, which were great supply centers.



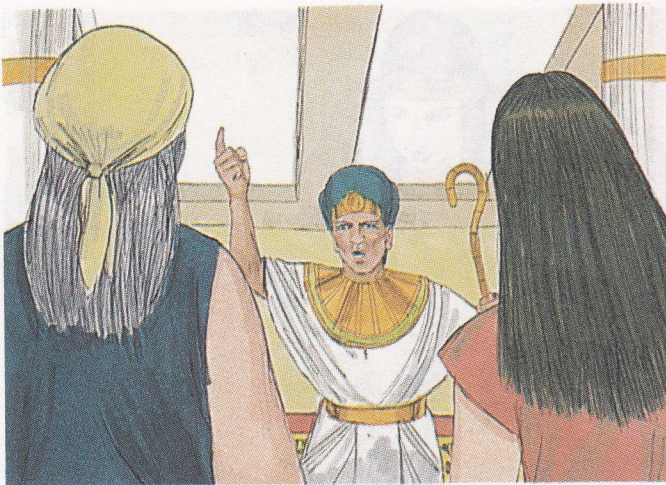
6 But the more the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites, the more the Israelites increased in number and the farther they spread through the land.



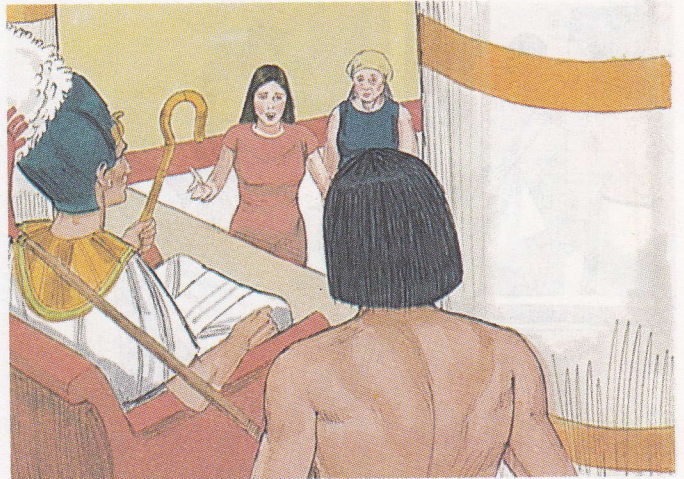
7 Now all the Egyptians began to be afraid of the Israelites. So they made the lives of the Israelites miserable with hard labor.



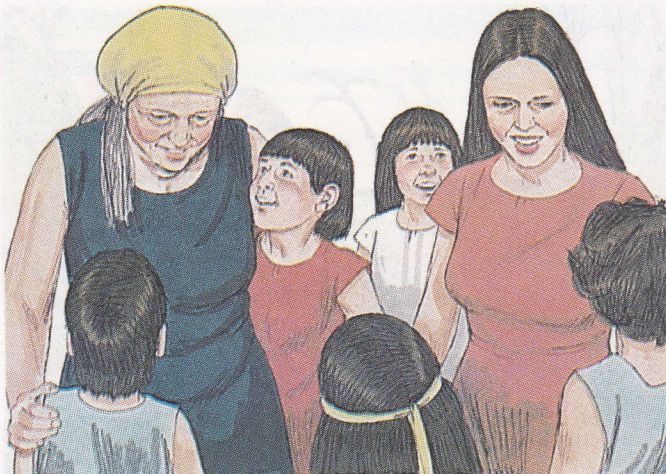
8 There were two Hebrew women who worked as midwives, helping the other Hebrew women when their babies were born. Their names were Shiphrah and Puah.



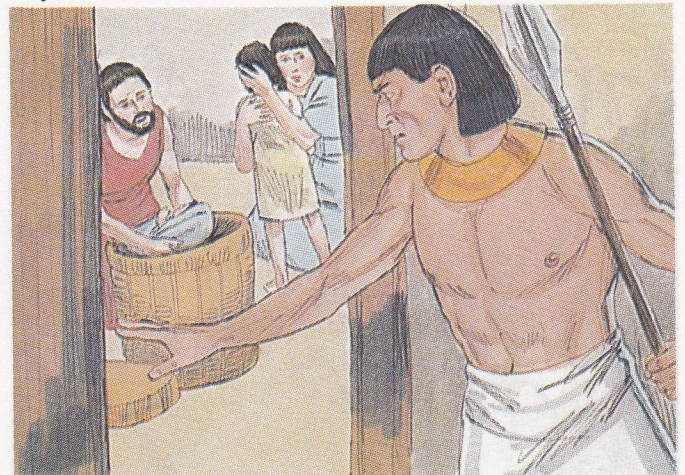
9 The Pharaoh gave orders to Shiphrah and Puah to kill all the baby boys who were born to Hebrew (or Israelite) women. But the midwives ignored Pharaoh's orders because they feared God.



10 When Pharaoh learned they were not obeying his orders, he called them to him. They gave him an excuse, saying, "The Hebrew women are so strong that they have their babies before we can arrive."



11 God was pleased with the midwives for not obeying Pharaoh's orders to kill the babies, and he blessed them with families of their own. The Israelites continued to grow in numbers.



12 Pharaoh, now angry, ordered all the Egyptian people to throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. This is where the story of Moses, the man God sent to rescue the Israelites, begins.